

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 EB-11 DRC-01 /140 W

----- 127101

R 181525Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1619

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THEHAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4376

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/79

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY, SUB-GROUP ON LOGISTICS

SUMMARY: LETTERS WERE RECEIVED FROM CANADA AND FRG OBJECTING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUB-GROUP ON LOGISTICS SPECIALIZATION. AT A MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 14, THE US EXPLAINED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE SUB-GROUP WOULD BE TO FIND WAYS TO ACHIEVE GREATER EFFICIENCY FOR ALL PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES NOT A SHIFTING OF THE US BURDEN. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE STUDY SHOULD FOCUS ON NARROW AREAS THAT MIGHT PRODUCE EARLY RESULTS. THE US HAS CIRCULATED A LETTER CLARIFYING THE SCOPE OF THE SUB-GROUP ON LOGISTICS AND CALLING FOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT BY SEPTEMBER 25. END SUMMARY

1. LETTERS WERE RECEIVED FROM GERMAN PERMREP (KRAPF) AND CONFIDENTIAL

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CANADIAN PERMREP (MENZIES) ON SEP 12 OBJECTING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LOGISTICS SPECIALIZATION SUB-GROUP (POUCHED). THE CANADIANS OBJECTED ON THE GROUNDS THAT LIMITED MANPOWER RESOURCES SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED ON THE TWO STUDIES IN

HAND. THE GERMANS ARGUED THAT THERE WOULD BE DUPLICATION OF WORK GOING ON IN EUROLOG, THE NATO EXPERIMENTAL CONFERENCE FOR LOGISTICS, AND NAMSA. THE GERMANS ALSO NOTED THAT TAKING OVER SUPPORT TASKS FOR US FORCES IN EUROPE IS A MATTER FOR THE BURDENSARING GROUP AND IS NOT ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF ADDITIONAL COST TO GERMANY WHICH WOULD BE AT THE EXPENSE OF GERMAN COMBAT CAPABILITY. A LETTER WAS ALSO RECEIVED FROM THE UK PERMREP (PECK) ON 13 SEP (POUCHED) PROPOSING A NARROW FOCUS FOR THE SUB-GROUP.

2. IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE ALLIED OBJECTIONS, MISSION HELD A MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UK, CANADA, GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM, SEP 14. THE US REP (GEN BOWMAN) REASSURED THE GROUP THAT BURDENSARING WOULD BE HANDLED IN THE BURDENSARING STUDY GROUP AND THAT THE GOAL IN LOGISTICS SPECIALIZATION WOULD BE TO SEEK GREATER EFFICIENCY FOR EVERYONE CONCERNED. AS IN OTHER SPECIALIZATION SUB-GROUPS, COUNTRIES WOULD PICK UP TASKS TO COMPENSATE FOR ANY TASKS THAT WERE DROPPED.

3. THE US REP ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE US LOGISTICS PAPER DID NOT ASK FOR THE EXAMINATION OF ALL THE BROAD SUBJECTS THAT WERE LISTED. THE PAPER STATED THAT NONE OF THE ITEMS HAD BEEN EXAMINED FOR SUITABILITY, FEASIBILITY OR ACCEPTABILITY, AND ITEMS INCLUDED WERE MEANT ONLY AS ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE WIDE RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES FOR LOGISTICS SPECIALIZATION. THE US REASSURED ALLIES THAT THERE WAS NO INTENT TO DUPLICATE WORK UNDERWAY IN OTHER NATO GROUPS. THE GOAL WOULD BE TO FIND A FEW CONCRETE WAYS TO ACHIEVE GREATER EFFICIENCY THROUGH LOGISTICS SPECIALIZATION BY DECEMBER WHILE IDENTIFYING OTHERFJXAWFILING AREAS FOR FURTHER STUDY.

4. THE GERMAN REP INDICATED THAT A DUPLICATE APPROACH TO BURDENSARING HAD BEEN THE MAIN CONCERN OF HIS COUNTRY. THE UK SUGGESTED THAT THE SUB-GROUP BEGIN BY LOOKING AT ACTIVITIES AND STUDY EFFORTS ALREADY UNDER WAY IN THE FIELD OF LOGISTICS
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SPECIALIZATION. THE CANADIAN REP SUGGESTED LOOKING AT AGREEMENTS ALREADY WORKED OUT FOR WARTIME MUTUAL SUPPORT AMONG CANADIAN GERMAN, AND US FORCES TO DETERMINE IF ANY COULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN PEACETIME AS WELL. THE BELGIAN REP AGREED THAT THE STUDY WOULD BE USEFUL BUT SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY DID NOT WANT TO BEGIN UNTIL OTHER SUB-GROUPS HAD COMPLETED THEIR WORK.

5. AT THE END OF THE MEETING, ALL THOSE PRESENT INDICATED THAT A US LETTER OUTLINING THE MAIN POINTS PRESENTED AT THE MEETING PROBABLY WOULD RESULT IN APPROVAL OF THE SUB-GROUP. HOWEVER, SINCE PERMREPS WERE ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS IN RAISING RESERVATIONS TO THE CREATION OF THE SUB-GROUP, APPROVAL WILL HAVE TO COME FROM ALLIED CAPITALS. MISSION HAS

CIRCULATED A LETTER INCLUDING THESE POINTS AND CALLING FOR
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
SUB-GROUP BY SEPTEMBER 25.
RUMSFELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO04376
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS, 12/31/79
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730962/abqceccb.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jul-2001 by kellew0>; APPROVED <18-Sep-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY, SUB-GROUP ON LOGISTICS
TAGS: MCAF, NATO, NL
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO BONN
BRUSSELS
THEHAGUE
LONDON
LUXEMBOURG
OTTAWA

USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005